

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration

SURVEY OF VETERANS SATISFACTION with the VA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Thank you for your help with this important project. This booklet contains questions about your recent experience with VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program. Please base your answers only on your most recent experience with this program (Chapter 31).

Please read and answer the following question first.

According to their records, VA received an application from you for its Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program (VR&E), OR you are currently participating in the program, OR have participated in the past. Is this true?

- Yes (Continue to instructions on the next page of the booklet, complete the rest of the questionnaire as soon as possible, and mail it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.)
- O No (STOP. You do not have to complete the rest of this questionnaire, but please return the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.)

Again, we thank you for helping VA provide better service to veterans.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

[SERIAL]

INSTRUCTIONS

This survey will take about 20 minutes to complete.

Please read each question carefully and respond by filling in the circle of the response that most closely represents your opinion.

Correct Mark

Incorrect Mark





- Use a soft lead pencil. Make heavy dark marks that fill the circles completely. If you wish to change an answer, erase cleanly (pencil) and mark the answer you prefer.
- **2** Fill in only <u>one</u> answer circle for each question unless it tells you to "*Mark all that apply.*"
- When you are finished, please place the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope and put it in the mail.

Example:

- 31. Were you generally able to get the information you needed on the first call or contact?
 - Yes
 - O No

Please watch for "SKIP" instructions -- they tell you when to skip over a group of questions that you do not need to answer.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0569 Public Reporting Burden Statement

VA may not conduct, sponsor, or require the respondent to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. All responses for this collection are voluntary. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time necessary for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The information collected is intended for the improvement of services within the VA benefits processing system and associated administrative purposes. Failure to furnish the requested information will have no adverse effect on any VA benefit to which you may be entitled.

The information you supply will be confidential and protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 522a) and the VA's confidentiality statute (38 U.S.C. 5701) as implemented by 38 CFR 1.526(a) and 38 CFR 1.576(b). Disclosure of information involves releases of statistical data and other non-identifying data for the improvement of services within the VA benefits processing system and associated administrative purposes. If you have comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspects of this collection of information, call 1-800-827-1000 for mailing information on where to send your comments.

Not at all

To further my education

Career counseling

To get training for a new job

To improve my job-seeking skills

To get a job that accommodated my disability

ΕP

2

6

5

63 62	Ple	ease answer the following questions in reference to your	current or most recent experience with the VR&E program.
61	Εν	ren if you are not currently participating in the program, p	lease answer based on your most recent experience.
60			Page 2
59	10.	How well was the VR&E staff able to obtain	EVALUATION AND TESTING
58		information about your military service,	EVALUATION AND TESTING
57		medical records, or disability rating from	
56 55		other parts of VA or the military?	15. Have you had your first individual meeting
54		Much botter than expected	with a counselor to evaluate whether you are entitled to VR&E services?
53		Much better than expectedBetter than expected	are entitled to VRQE services?
52		Just as expected	○ Yes (CONTINUE with Q16)
51		Worse than expected	O No, but one is scheduled
50		 Much worse than expected 	(SKIP to Q42, page 4)
49		O Don't know	O No, not scheduled yet
48			(SKIP to Q42, page 4) ○ Don't know (SKIP to Q40, page 4)
46	11	After you applied, did you attend a group	O Don't know (SKIP to Q40, page 4)
45		orientation meeting with Vocational	
44		Rehabilitation and Employment staff?	16. How long did it take from the time VA
43		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	NOTIFIED you about the appointment until
42		Yes	you had your initial MEETING?
41		○ No	
40 39			Less than 1 week5 weeks6 weeks
38	12	Did VA send a letter or call you to set up an	2 weeks 7 weeks
37	14.	individual appointment with a counselor?	3 weeks 8 weeks or more
36			O 4 weeks O Don't recall
35		Yes (CONTINUE with Q13)	
34		O No (SKIP to Q15)	4- 11
33		O Don't know (SKIP to Q15)	17. How REASONABLE was the length of time it
31			took to have this initial meeting once VA notified you about the appointment?
30	13.	How long did it take from the time you	notined you about the appointment:
29		applied to the time you were notified about	Very reasonable
28		this individual appointment?	Somewhat reasonable
27		O Leas the are O o O	Neither reasonable nor unreasonable
26 25		Less than 2 weeks2 weeks9 weeks	Somewhat unreasonable
24		3 weeks 10 weeks	 Very unreasonable
23		4 weeks 11 weeks	
22		○ 5 weeks ○ 12 weeks	18. Who was your primary counselor during the
21		○ 6 weeks ○ 13 weeks or more	initial evaluation?
20		7 weeks Onn't recall	O A MA 1 55
19 18			A VA staff counselorA counselor under contract with VA
17	14	How REASONABLE was the length of time it	O Don't know
16	• ••	took VA to notify you about this individual	2 Don't know
15		appointment?	
14			19. In general, how convenient was the
13 12		Very reasonable	LOCATION of this evaluation?
11		Somewhat reasonableNeither reasonable nor unreasonable	Very convenient
10		Somewhat unreasonable	Somewhat convenient
9		O Very unreasonable	Neither convenient nor inconvenient
8		•	Somewhat inconvenient
7			Very inconvenient
6			
4			
5 4 3 2	EP		
2	= P		
1			

	Please answer the following questions in reference to your <u>current</u> or <u>most recent</u> experience with the VR&E program. Even if you are not currently participating in the program, please answer based on your most recent experience.							
	Page 3							
20.	In general, how convenient was the TIME scheduled for this evaluation?	27.	During the evaluation, how well did you feel your counselor understood your feelings	59 58				
	Very convenient		and concerns?	57 56				
	Somewhat convenient		Completely	55				
	Neither convenient nor inconvenient		Mostly	54				
	Somewhat inconvenient		Somewhat	53 52				
	Very inconvenient		Only a little Not at all	51				
21.	Did you take any tests as part of your		- Not at all	50				
	evaluation?	28.	Overall, did the EVALUATION process reflect	49				
	○ Yes		the courtesy, compassion, and respect you would expect as a veteran of the United	48				
	O No (SKIP to Q25)		States?	46				
	,			45				
22.	Did the counselor explain the purpose of these tests?		○ Yes ○ No	44				
	these tests?		O NO	42				
	○ Yes	29.	Aside from scheduled visits, what was the	41				
	O No		PRIMARY method you used to contact your	39				
23	Did the tests seem appropriate to you for		evaluation counselor? (Mark only one.)	38				
	your evaluation?		O Phone, 1-800 number	37				
	O 1/		Phone, long-distance number	36				
	○ Yes ○ No		Phone, local numberFax	35				
	O Don't know		E-mail (computer)	33				
			Letter	32				
24.	Did the counselor explain the test results in a way you could understand?		Unannounced visitDid not need additional communication	31				
	a way you could understand:		(SKIP to Q34)	29				
	○ Yes		,	28				
	O No	30.	How responsive was the counselor to your contact through this method?	27				
	No results yet (SKIP to Q26)		contact unough this method:	25				
25.	How completely did the results of the initial		Very responsive	24				
	evaluation match your particular skills and abilities?		Somewhat responsive	23				
	abilities?		Neither responsive nor unresponsiveSomewhat unresponsive	21				
	O Completely		Very unresponsive	20				
	MostlySomewhat	24	Were you generally able to get the	19				
	Only a little	31.	information you needed on the first call or	17				
	O Not at all		contact?	16				
26	During the evaluation, how confident or our		○ Yes	15 14				
20.	During the evaluation, how confident or sure were you that your counselor gave you good		O No	13				
	information and advice?			12				
	○ Vary confident	32.	Did you have to repeat the same information	11				
	Very confidentSomewhat confident		to more than one person during the evaluation process?	9				
	O Neither		·	8				
	Somewhat unsure		Yes	7				
	Very unsureDon't know		○ No					
				4				
			EP	5 4 3 2				
				1				
	_							

63 62 61	Ple Ev	ease answer the following questions in reference to your en if you are not currently participating in the program, p	<u>current</u> or <u>most recent</u> experience with the VR&E program. lease answer based on your most recent experience.
60]		Page 4
59 58	33.	Were you able to access voice mail in order to leave your counselor a message?	38. How REASONABLE was the length of time it took VA to determine whether you were
57 56]	Yes, counselor returned call	entitled to VR&E services, once you had your initial meeting with your counselor?
55] 1	Yes, counselor did not return call	O Marriago a robla
54 53]	No, wasn't able to access voice mailNever tried	Very reasonableSomewhat reasonable
52]	Never tried	Neither reasonable nor unreasonable
51	j		 Somewhat unreasonable
50	34.	After the initial evaluation, did VA notify you	Very unreasonable
49]]	that you were entitled to VR&E services?	
47]	○ Yes, entitled (SKIP to Q37)	39. Overall, how satisfied are you with the way
46		No, not entitled (CONTINUE with Q35)	the vocational rehabilitation EVALUATION
45		O Don't know yet (SKIP to Q37)	process was handled?
44]		
43]]		Very satisfiedSomewhat satisfied
	35.	Did VA explain why you were NOT entitled to	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
40		VR&E services?	 Somewhat dissatisfied
39		O 14	Very dissatisfied
38]]	○ Yes ○ No	
37 36]	O NO	If entitled to VR&E services, CONTINUE with Q40.
35	j		If not entitled, SKIP to Q61, page 7.
34	36.	When you were found NOT ENTITLED, which	
33]]	When you were found NOT ENTITLED, which (if any) of the following resources or programs did VA inform you of? (Mark all that	DEVELOPING A PLAN
31]	apply.)	
30			40. Who was/is your primary counselor during
29]	Other VA educational assistance programs	the planning phase of your program?
28]	(such as the Montgomery GI Bill) State tuition assistance programs	A VA staff counselor
26]	State rehabilitation programs	A vasian counselor A counselor under contract with VA
25		O State employment programs (such as DVOP -	O Don't know
24]	Disabled Veterans Outreach Program)	
23]]	On-the-job/apprenticeship programsSBA (Small Business Administration)	41. Is this the same counselor who conducted
21]	programs	your initial evaluation?
20]	Scholarships or grants (such as Pell Grant)	Joan music evaluation.
19		Other, please specify	O Yes
18 17]]	None	O No
16]	None	
15			42. Have you and your counselor developed a
14	37.	Once you had your initial meeting with a	plan of services for your rehabilitation?
13 12]	counselor, how long did it take for VA to determine whether you were entitled to	 Yes, includes an educational/training phase
11]	VR&E services?	Yes, but went directly into employment services
10 9 8	j	○ Less than 2 weeks ○ 8 weeks	 No, but in the process of developing
8		O 2 weeks O 9 weeks	a plan (SKIP to Q52, page 6)
7]]	○ 3 weeks ○ 10 weeks ○ 4 weeks ○ 11 weeks	○ No (SKIP to Q61, page 7)
5]	4 weeks5 weeks11 weeks12 to 16 weeks	
4	j	6 weeks 17 weeks or more	
5 4 3 2]] EP	○ 7 weeks	
1	EP 	'	
<u> </u>	1	_ 	

Page 5

By filling in the appropriate circle, please indicate whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statements regarding your plan of services:

		Strongly ages	Agree	Neither agra-	Disagree	Strongly disc.	Not applicable
43.	You actively participated in developing the plan	0	0	0	0	0	0
44.	The plan reflects individualized services which meet your specific needs	0	0	0	0	0	0
45.	Your counselor spent adequate time and resources in developing the plan	0	0	0	0	0	0
46.	The plan reflects your intentions and expectations for rehabilitation	0	0	0	0	0	0
47.	The plan is appropriate to achieve your vocational goals	0	0	0	0	0	0
48.	The plan was designed to minimize aggravation of your disability	0	0	0	0	0	0
49.	The plan adequately reflects your interests, aptitudes, and abilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
50.	The plan reflects current conditions and characteristics of the job market.	0	0	0	0	0	0
51.	The plan was designed with potential employment/employers in mind	0	0	0	0	0	0

63 62			current or most recent experience with the VR&E program.
61] = v	en if you are not currently participating in the program, p	lease answer based on your most recent experience. Page 6
59	52.	In general, how convenient was the	56. Were you generally able to get the
58		LOCATION where this PLAN was developed	information you needed on the first call or
57		or is being developed?	contact?
56]	O Manual and	O V
55 54]]	Very convenientSomewhat convenient	○ Yes ○ No
53]	Neither convenient nor inconvenient	U 110
52	j	O Somewhat inconvenient	
51]	O Very inconvenient	57. Did you have to repeat the same information
50	1		to more than one person during the
49]] E 2	In concret how convenient was the TIME	planning process?
47] ວວ. 	In general, how convenient was the TIME scheduled for developing this PLAN?	○ Yes
46]	scheduled for developing this r LAIV:	O No
45	j	Very convenient	
44		 Somewhat convenient 	
43]	Neither convenient nor inconvenient	58. Were you able to access voice mail in order
42]	Somewhat inconvenient	to leave your counselor a message?
41]]	Very inconvenient	Vac acupaciar returned call
39]		Yes, counselor returned callYes, counselor did not return call
	54.	Aside from scheduled visits, what was the	No, wasn't able to access voice mail
37		PRIMARY method you used to contact your	Never tried
36		planning counselor? (Mark only one.)	
35		0.5	
33] 1	Phone, 1-800 number	59. Overall, did the PLANNING process reflect
32]	Phone, long-distance numberPhone, local number	the courtesy, compassion, and respect you would expect as a veteran of the United
31]	Fax	States?
30	j	E-mail (computer)	
29		Letter	○ Yes
28]	Unannounced visit	O No
27]	O Did not need additional communication	
26 25]]	(SKIP to Q59)	60. Overall how estisfied are you with the way
24]		60. Overall, how satisfied are you with the way your vocational rehabilitation PLAN of
23	55.	How responsive was the counselor to your	services was developed or is being
22		contact through this method?	developed?
21		_	•
20	1	Very responsive	Very satisfied
19 18]]	Somewhat responsive	Somewhat satisfied Neither estisfied per dispetiation
17]	Neither responsive nor unresponsiveSomewhat unresponsive	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfiedSomewhat dissatisfied
16]	Very unresponsive	Very dissatisfied
15	j	very anneapements	o rony dissationed
14			
13			
12] 1		
11]]		
9]		
8	j		
7]		
6]		
5]]		
]		
2	EP		
1	j		

Page	7
------	---

63

62

61 60 59

58

57

56

55 54

53

52 51

50 49

48

47

46

45

44 43

42

41 40

39 38

37

36

35 34

33

32 31 30

29

28 27 26

25

24

23

22

21

20

19 18

17

16

15

14 13

12

11

9

61. Looking back to your contacts with the

ACCESS TO THE VR&E PROGRAM

VR&E program thus far, which methods of contact did you EVER use? (Mark all that apply.)

In-person visit

O Phone, 1-800 number

Phone, long-distance number

O Phone, local number

Fax

Internet, e-mail, or website

Letter

62. In general, how easy was it for you to obtain information from the VR&E program?

Very easy

Somewhat easy

Neither easy nor difficult

Somewhat difficult

Very difficult

63. Which method of contact with the VR&E program would you prefer, if you could get the same degree of service? (Mark only one.)

In-person visit

O Phone, 1-800 number

Phone, long-distance number

O Phone, local number

Fax

Internet, e-mail, or website

Letter

CURRENT STATUS IN THE VR&E PROGRAM

64. How would you best describe your CURRENT status with regard to the VA VR&E program? (Mark only one.)

VA requested I interrupt program

(CONTINUE with Q65)

VA requested I withdraw from program

(CONTINUE with Q65)

I voluntarily interrupted program

(**SKIP** to Q66)

I voluntarily withdrew from program

(**SKIP** to Q66)

I am currently pursuing program

(**SKIP** to Q67, page 8)

65. Did VA tell you the reasons why you were interrupted or withdrawn from the program?

O Yes

O No

O Don't know

66. Why did you interrupt or withdraw from the VR&E program? (Mark all that apply.)

Medical problems

Disability

Found ineligible or non-entitled to program

VA requested that I interrupt or withdraw from

program

VA took too long to determine eligibility or entitlement

Location of counselor's office

Financial difficulties

Took job

O Too much red tape

Moved/planning to move

O Used GI Bill (Chapter 30) benefits instead

Family responsibilities/difficulties

Program did not meet my needs

Problems with counselor

10

8 7 6

5 4

62	Pl	ease answer the following questions in reference to you	r <u>current</u> or <u>most recent</u> experience with the VR&E program.
61	Εν	en if you are not currently participating in the program, ہ	please answer based on your most recent experience.
60]		Page 8
59	67.	Do you plan to complete your rehabilitation	72. Have your CAREER goals been raised,
58		program now or at some later date?	lowered, or unaffected as a result of your
57	j	F 3	interaction with the VR&E program?
56		○ Yes, now	. •
55		Yes, at a later date	O Raised
54		○ No	Lowered
53]	O Not sure	Unaffected
52			O Don't know
51		OVERALL IMPRESSIONS	
50		OVERALE IN RESOLUTION	
49]	There for however II has the management	70 A
48	68.	Thus far, how well has the program met	73. Are your career goals more realistic as a
47]]	your expectations?	result of the program?
45]]	Much bottor than avported	○ Yes
44]]	Much better than expected	
43]	Better than expectedJust as expected	O No O Don't know
42]	Worse than expected	DOITE KNOW
41]	Much worse than expected	
40]	O Don't know	
39]	Don't know	74. Would you recommend this program to
38]		other disabled veterans?
37]		Other disabled veteralis:
	69	During the Evaluation and Planning phase,	○ Yes
35]	do you feel that there was sufficient focus	O No
34	ĺ	on your future employment?	O Don't know
33	ĺ	on your rataro omproyments	Bontanon
32	ĺ	O Yes	
31	ĺ	O No	
30	ĺ	O Don't know	
29	ĺ		CONTINUE with Question 75, page 9.
28	j		
27			
26	70.	Have your EDUCATIONAL goals been raised,	
25		lowered, or unaffected as a result of your	
24		interaction with the VR&E program?	
23			
22		Raised	
21	ļ	Lowered	
20	[Unaffected	
19		O Don't know	
18			
17			
16]		
15	71.	Are your educational goals more realistic as	
14]	a result of the program?	
13]	O 1/	
12]	Yes	
11] 1	O No	
10] 1	O Don't know	
9]]		
7]		
6]		
5]		
]]		
3]		
6 5 4 3	EP		
1]]		
	J		

Please answer the following questions in reference to your <u>current</u> or <u>most recent</u> experience with the VR&E prog Even if you are not currently participating in the program, please answer based on your most recent experience.	_
75. Do you have any additional comments concerning how VA could improve its Vocational Rehabilitation Program? (To maintain confidentiality, please do <u>not</u> include your name, address, s	age 9
security number, or any other identifying information.)	
	<u>L</u>
	<u>L</u>
Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your answers are very important to us.	L
Please place the questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope and return it to:	
Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc.	
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 820	
Silver Spring, MD 20910	
	ED [
	EP

ΕP

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

[SERIAL]